

Filed for intro on 01/30/95
House Bill _____
By _____

Senate Bill No.SJR0030
By Womack

A RESOLUTION to salute the many accomplishments of Coach Gary Rankin and the 1994 Riverdale High School football team, Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Class 5-A state champions.

WHEREAS, with exceptional poise, exemplary determination, and great skill, the fine 1994 Riverdale High School football team has recently finished a marvelous season by winning the coveted Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Class 5-A state championship; and

WHEREAS, steeped in tradition, Riverdale compiled a rare, unblemished regular season record, easily defeating Hillsboro 38-7; Cookeville 45-0; traditional power Gallatin, the third-ranked team in the state, 24-7; Warren County 38-0; Christian County, Kentucky 76-3, despite losing a quarterback early in the game; Beech 48-0, in a Homecoming contest; Mt. Juliet 53-7; Lebanon 52-3, to avenge their only regular season loss in four years and cross-town rival Oakland 49-0; and

WHEREAS, in the playoffs, the Warriors impressively beat Chattanooga Baylor 49-0, Kingsport Dobyns-Bennett 28-0 and Science Hill 40-0 to set up one of the best Clinic Bowl games ever played; and

WHEREAS, at the 5-A state championship Clinic Bowl, held at historic Dudley Stadium, in Nashville, Tennessee, a monumental contest between two outstanding teams resulted in a Riverdale victory over Germantown, by a 14-10 margin; and

WHEREAS, the Warriors compiled a perfect overall season record of 15-0; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the state title, they were ranked #9 in the nation by the highly regarded USA Today poll, were ranked #4 in the South and were the Region 4 5-A champions; and

WHEREAS, highly regarded Coach Gary Rankin has continued his lengthy string of successes and his untiring efforts have been noted by many honors. He was named the Rex Dockery State Coach of the Year, the Lawrenceburg Quarterback Club Mid-State Coach of the Year, received the Clinic Bowl Coaches Award, and was selected Region 4 5-A Coach of the Year, Nashville Banner Coach of the Year and Tennessean Coach of the Year; and

WHEREAS, the very competent staff of assistant coaches included: Jimmy Maynard, Rickey Field, Brad Cowan, Steve Britton, Greg Wyant, Barry Benham and Matt Snow; and

WHEREAS, this very talented team was lead by Alvin Duke, Class 5-A "Mr. Football", Lawrenceburg Quarterback Club State and Mid-State Player of the Year, Associated Press First Team All-State, Region 4 5-A Offensive Most Valuable Player, Rutherford County Player of the Year and a Vanderbilt University signee; Antron Peebles, who was chosen Associated Press First Team All-State, Region 4 5-A Defensive Most Valuable Player, Tennessean Defensive Player of the Year, Nashville Banner All- Midstate, Rutherford County Defensive Most Valuable Player and he has signed with the University of Tennessee; Fernando Bryant, an All-American, Associated Press First Team All-State, All-Region 4 5-A, Tennessean All-Midstate selection and a University of Alabama signee; Corey Carney, who was named Clinic Bowl Defensive Most Valuable Player, Honorable Mention All-State, All-Region 4 5-A, All-Rutherford County and signed with the Samford University; David Coppeans, Associated Press First Team All-State, All-Region 4 5-A, Tennessean All-Midstate, Nashville Banner All-Midstate , All-Rutherford

County and received a scholarship to attend Vanderbilt University; Marcus Smith, Honorable Mention All-State, All-Region 4 5-A and All-Rutherford County; Jeff Lee, Honorable Mention All-State, All-Region 4 5-A and All-Rutherford County; Ryan Miller Honorable Mention All-State, All-Region 4 5-A Specialist Most Valuable Player and All-Rutherford County; Larry Floyd, Honorable Mention All-State, All-Region 4 5-A and All-Rutherford County; Gerald Griffin, Honorable Mention All-State and All-Rutherford County and Joel Young, Greg Smith, Chuck Harris and Kevin Litchford, each of whom received All-Rutherford County recognition; and

WHEREAS, the other members of this talented team: Emil Mitchell, Carlos Tigg, Eric Locke, Johnta Martin, Michael Knox, Craig Hill, Delaney Solomon, Joe Hill, Jerome Verge, TeJuan Odom, Corey Richardson, Gabriel Nelson, Howard Henderson, Elgene Porter, Ryan Maloney, Ron Smith, Jeremy Maurer, Eugene Porter, Chris Long, Kelly Faulkner, Keith Jordan, Chris Barnett, Reggie Smith, William Henry, Andrew Smotherman, Brian Davis, James Baxter, Doug Austin, Andy Risner, Shawn Bowers, Billy McKinley, Justin Tate, Brett Martin, Jerod Wade, Brian Barnett, Robb Soapes, Todd Harris, Michael Nobles, Craig Underwood, Travis Brown, J. R. Crockett, Joe Oliver, Shavis Randell, Brian Austin, Jason Staples, David Merrill, David Hennessee, Matt Austin, John Simpkins, Phil Sisambath, Kevin Davis and Ryan White; were an important part of this victorious year; and

WHEREAS, the principal of the school, Hulon Watson, has solidly supported the team; and

WHEREAS, the superb doctors were Tom Jones and Michael Jordan; the active managers were; Karen Hughes, Ashley Taylor, Rachel James and Darrell Odom; the student trainers were Brian Brown and Nathan Bracy; the trainer was Carl Young and the film person was Neal Watson; and

WHEREAS, under the adept sponsorship of Mrs. Jeannie Dotson, the cheerleading squad, which consisted of Jaime McCullough, Celby Swanson, Kristie Hargett, Amy Sawyer,

Terra Cole, Jessica Taylor, Amber Wyre, Julie Young, Sarah Montgomery, Allie Bailey and Robin Foutch, brought the crowd to their feet cheering on countless critical occasions; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this body honor and congratulate one of the best high school football teams ever to grace Tennessee gridirons; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor and congratulate Coach Gary Rankin and the 1994 Riverdale High School Football team on winning the TSSAA Class 5-A state championship and for their numerous other accomplishments. We wish them well in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.